

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 DOE-15 SOE-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02
EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /107 W
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R 081100Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9704
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7498

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, CH, IR
SUBJ: PRC PETROLEUM MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRAN

REF: 77 TEHRAN A-175 NOTAL

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: CHINESE OIL AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
MINISTER SONG CHEN-MING AND WHAT WAS DESCRIBED BY GOI
CONTACT AS A LARGE AND WELL STRUCTURED DELEGATION VISITED
IRAN JULY 27 TO AUGUST 1. THE DELEGATION'S THREE DAY
TOUR OF IRAN'S OIL AND GAS CENTERS IN THE SOUTH
INCLUDED LOADING TERMAINALS, GAS PROCESSING FACILITIES, KHARG
ISLAND, THE ABADAN REFINERY AND NIOC'S AHWAZ PIPE ROLLING
MILL. DISCUSSIONS IN TEHRAN INVOLVED NIOC CHAIRMAN/
MANAGING DIRECTOR HUSHANG ANSARY AND HIS DEPUTY HASSAN-ALI
MEHRAN, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINES MOHAMMAD REZA
AMIN AND MINISTER OF ENERGY TAVAKOLI. PRESS COVERAGE
CAST THE VISIT'S OBJECTIVE AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER
COOPERATION AS WELL AS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A NEW OIL
PURCHASE AGREEMENT. SONG CHEN-MING REPORTEDLY SAID
AT ANSARY-HOSTED LUNCH THAT BILATERAL COOPERATION IN
OIL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IS POSSIBLE AND WILL
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BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL.

2. THE PRESS NOTED AND MINCOM OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE IRANO-CHINESE JOINT MINISTERIAL
COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION,
POSTPONED FROM AUGUST 1977, SHOULD MEET IN PEKING
SOMETIME LATER THIS YEAR. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED IN

CONNECTION WITH THIS VISIT THAT PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG WOULD VISIT IRAN AUGUST 28 AND 29 ON HIS WAY HOME FROM YUGOSLOVIA. IT THEN ALLUDED TO PERSIAN LANGUAGE BROADCASTS BY MOSCOW RADIO WHICH CRITICIZED PEKING'S DIPLOMATIC DRIVE, ACCUSING CHINA OF "SOWING THE SEEDS OF ENMITY" BETWEEN PERSIAN GULF STATES AND THE USSR AND ADDED THAT SOURCES INTERPRETED THE ATTACK AS SEEKING TO BLUNT CHINA'S EFFORTS TO SECURE EXCLUSIVE TIES WITH THE OIL STATES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE TIMING OF THIS VISIT AND RECENT INTELLIGENCE SUGGEST THAT THE VISIT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONCERNED WITH A NEW CRUDE OIL PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND THE ACHIEVEMENT BY CHINA OF IRANIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN OIL AND PERHAPS PETROCHEMICALS. THE PRC'S LAST OIL PURCHASE AGREEMENT, FOR 300,000 LT OF CRUDE, WAS REACHED IN AUGUST 1977 (SEE REF AIR). NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF THIS VISIT AND OFFICIALS THUS FAR CONTACTED ARE CLOSE-MOUTHED. WE WILL CONTINUE INQUIRIES AND SOLICIT INFORMATION FROM ADDRESSEES.
NAAS

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